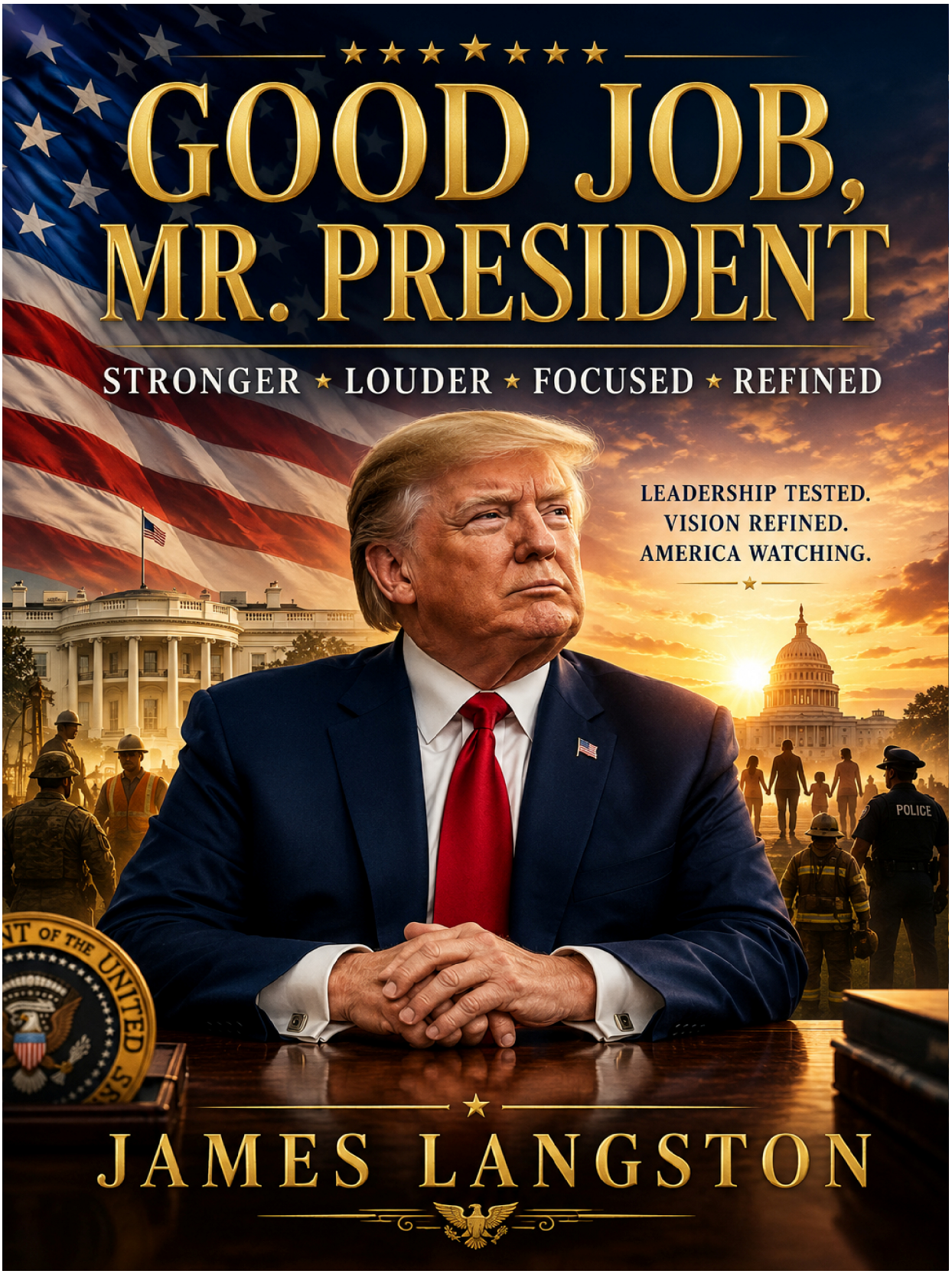

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Good Job

Mr. President

'. . . Trump 2.0: Stronger, Louder, Focused and Refined. . .'

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‘Dedication’

“In Memory of One Who Stood”

To the patriots of yesterday and today—
those who stood watch, who bore the burden,
who guarded America’s shores with courage unshaken.

This book is dedicated to every soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, and guardian who answered the call of duty with honor.

To those who return home carrying unseen scars, and to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice—their very lives—we owe a debt that words can never repay.

May your unwavering devotion remind us that freedom is not free, and may your legacy of courage inspire generations to come.

‘Prologue’

“0-60 in Nine Months”

by Dr. Elaine Richards, Political Historian and Commentator

History does not always move at a steady pace. Sometimes it crawls, sometimes it stalls — and sometimes, it accelerates with such force that the world seems unable to catch its breath. The past nine months in American politics have been precisely that: a jolt from zero to sixty, a sudden surge that defied polls, predictions, and punditry alike.

On January 20, 2025, Donald John Trump once again placed his hand on the Bible, lifted his right hand to the cold January sky, and swore the oath of office — this time not as the 45th President returning to finish a term, but as the 47th President, beginning anew. That single moment, routine in form yet extraordinary in substance, was the ignition of a comeback few believed possible.

What followed has been nothing short of remarkable. Executive orders restoring border policies, reopening energy pipelines, and reasserting trade leverage sent immediate shockwaves across the nation and the world. To his supporters, these were promises kept, momentum reclaimed, proof that their champion had returned stronger than before. To his critics, it was the return of chaos, a regression to policies they thought buried. Yet whether praised or condemned, the fact remained: America was once again racing forward under Trump’s hand, and the engine was running hot.

The symbolism has not been lost. Rallies have swelled, cable news has reignited, and social media has once again become a battlefield of narratives. Allies abroad whisper in caution while adversaries calculate their countermoves. Inside the country, households are split, congregations divided, and classrooms buzzing with debate. But across every sector, one reality dominates: Trump’s second presidency is not a footnote — it is a headline, written in bold.

And that is why this prologue bears the title *0–60 in Nine Months*. Because this period has not felt like a slow re-entry into power; it has felt like an acceleration, a headlong surge into a new chapter of American history. In less than a year, the nation has been thrust into a whirlwind of decisions, declarations, and disputes, each one shaping not only the present but the contours of the future.

‘Foreword’

“Through the Eyes of a Grateful Nation”

by Dr. Charles D. Rutledge, Ph.D., Political Theorist and Chair of the Department of Governmental Ethics

The measure of any democracy lies not merely in the ideals it proclaims, but in the integrity with which those ideals are practiced. At its heart, leadership is an ethical endeavor. It requires more than ambition, more than popularity, and far more than the loudest voice in the room. True leadership, in a free republic, is the capacity to uphold principle even under pressure, to tell the truth when it costs, and to act with courage when compromise is easier.

That is what makes James Langston’s *Good Job Mr. President* such a timely and necessary work. He has written not simply as a commentator on politics but as a watchman for the nation’s conscience. He calls us back to the roots of American leadership—roots nourished by sacrifice, guided by conviction, and judged not by polls but by principle.

I have spent my career studying the rise and fall of governments, the ethics of power, and the fragile line between statesmanship and self-interest. History teaches us that great nations rarely collapse from external threat alone; they decay when they lose the moral fiber that once held them together. The presidency, with all its power and peril, becomes the stage upon which that drama is most clearly revealed.

Langston writes with an honesty that is both refreshing and unsettling. He does not flatter the powerful, nor does he coddle the public. Instead, he reminds us that democracy cannot survive if citizens only critique from the bleachers while refusing to step onto the field of responsibility.

In his words, *“It’s not the chickens that are cackling, but the buzzards in the trees.”* The point is clear: the loudest noise often comes from those who contribute the least. True leadership—and true citizenship—demands more than cackling; it demands commitment.

This book compels us to examine not just the actions of presidents, but our own complicity in shaping what kind of leadership we tolerate, celebrate, or ignore. To say *“Good Job Mr. President”* is not to offer blind approval. It is to recognize when leadership rises to the level of statesmanship, and to hold it accountable when it falls short.

'Preface'

"Why This Book, Why Now"

by James Langston. Husband, Father, Grandfather, Visionary,
Senior Pastor, Retired Navy veteran

When I set out to write *Good Job Mr. President*, I did so not with the intent to cheer from the sidelines nor to critique from the shadows. My goal was much simpler, yet far more urgent: to capture the essence of what true leadership requires in America today.

Our nation is at a crossroads. The air is thick with division. Neighbors glare at one another across political lines; families fracture over the direction of the country. In moments like these, the temptation is to despair—to assume America's best days are behind her. But I refuse to believe that. Instead, I believe our best days can still be ahead, if only we have the courage to lead with conviction and follow with discernment.

This book is not a defense of any single administration, nor is it a weapon aimed at political enemies. Rather, it is a reflection on leadership itself: how it is exercised, how it is judged, and how it shapes the destiny of a nation. To say *"Good Job Mr. President"* is not to endorse every policy or excuse every misstep. It is to recognize the weight of the office and the necessity of accountability.

My prayer is that readers will find in these pages a renewed sense of responsibility. Leadership is not the task of the president alone—it is the calling of every American citizen. If we hold our leaders accountable while also embodying the virtues we expect from them, then we will help steer this nation through turbulent waters.

Let this book be both a mirror and a map: a mirror that shows us who we have become, and a map that points us toward who we still can be.

— James Langston

‘Acknowledgements’

“With Thanks to Patriots, Past and Present”

by James Langston. Husband, Father, Grandfather, Visionary,
Senior Pastor, Retired Navy veteran

“No journey of words is ever walked alone, and this book is no exception”

First, I extend my deepest thanks to my wife, Cecilia, whose patience, faith, and encouragement carried me through long nights of writing. To my children and grandchildren, whose questions about the future of America have often been sharper than those of seasoned pundits, I say: you are the reason I continue to write. May you inherit a country worthy of your dreams.

I am grateful to the many men and women across this nation who lent their voices and stories—veterans who spoke of sacrifice, mothers who spoke of hope, teachers who spoke of courage, and pastors who spoke of truth. Your testimonies form the invisible ink of this book, reminding me that leadership is not confined to the Oval Office, but lives in every corner of our land.

To my fellow laborers in ministry, especially those in Pilgrim Outreach Ministries, thank you for reminding me daily that the work of healing a soul and the work of healing a nation are not so different. Both require humility, persistence, and love.

Finally, I acknowledge the citizens of America, past and present, who gave of their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor so that we might be free. May their courage echo in these pages, and may we prove worthy of their sacrifice.

—James Langston

‘Introduction’

“The Return of Donald J. Trump”

by Dr. Rebecca L. Harrison, J.D., Former U.S. Constitutional Scholar and Policy Advisor

Leadership in America has always been a paradox: celebrated when it unites, condemned when it divides, and tested most when the stakes are highest. In *Good Job Mr. President*, James Langston has written not just a book about a presidency, but about the very soul of the republic and the responsibility that rests on every citizen’s shoulders.

What this book is about:

This is not a policy manual, nor is it a partisan pamphlet. It is a clarion call to remember what good leadership looks like—and why it matters. Langston examines leadership through the lens of America’s founding principles: liberty, accountability, service, and courage. He doesn’t merely ask whether a president “did well.” He asks: Did he keep faith with the people? Did he uphold the Constitution? Did he advance the nation’s moral and civic health?

When this book matters most:

We live in an era of uncertainty. Our politics are polarized, our culture is fractured, and our global standing is challenged at every turn. The question, *“Good Job Mr. President*?” is not academic—it is immediate. It asks us, in real time, to assess whether our leaders are steering us toward stability or decline, toward greatness or mediocrity. Langston’s work is urgent because America’s future is being written not in some distant tomorrow, but today, in every choice made at the highest levels of government and in the quiet corners of everyday life.

Where this message takes us:

Langston takes readers beyond the walls of Washington and into the heart of the nation. He reminds us that leadership is not confined to the Oval Office. It is found in city halls, classrooms, pulpits, and homes. By situating the presidency within the larger American story, this book refuses to treat politics as theater—it treats it as destiny. Where we go as a nation will not be determined by political noise alone, but by whether leaders and citizens alike return to the enduring truths of our founding.

Why this book matters:

‘What Readers Are Saying’

Around the world, readers have found Good Job Mr. President: Trump 2.0 — Stronger, Louder, Focused and Refined to be more than just a political reflection. They see it as a mirror of our times—one that speaks to leadership, division, resilience, and faith in ways that cross borders and cultures.

Here’s what they’re saying:

“This book pulls back the curtain on modern leadership and its struggles. It doesn’t shy away from controversy, but invites the reader into reflection and conviction.”

— J. Thompson, Dallas, Texas, USA

“As a European who has watched American politics from afar, I found Langston’s insights deeply thought-provoking. It helped me understand not just Trump, but the people who follow him.”

— L. Kraus, Berlin, Germany

“The devotional parallels throughout the book struck me the most. They remind us that no leader, however powerful, is above God’s ultimate authority.”

— S. Mwangi, Nairobi, Kenya

"लैंग्स्टन की लेखनी ने मुझे अपने ही देश में चल रही राजनीतकि बहसों के लिए भाषा दी। यह दर्शाता है कि अमेरिका के वभिाजन और वरिासत के संघर्षों की गूंज पूरी दुनयिा में सुनाई देती है।" (Langston’s writing gave me language for the political debates happening in my own country. It shows that America’s struggles with division and legacy have global echoes)

— R. Singh, Mumbai, India

“The chapter on unfinished business spoke directly into my own life. We all have unresolved battles, and the book helped me see mine through a new lens.”

— C. Rodriguez, Buenos Aires, Argentina

“To dzieło odważne i bezkompromisowe. Niezależnie od tego, czy ktoś zgadza się z Trumpem, czy też nie, Langston skłania do głębokiej refleksji nad pytaniami o sprawiedliwość, jedność i przywództwo, które mają znaczenie w każdym zakątku świata” (A bold and unapologetic book. Whether you agree with Trump or not, Langston forces you to wrestle with questions about justice, unity, and leadership that matter everywhere)

— A. Novak, Warsaw, Poland

“From the Philippines, we often feel the ripple effects of America’s choices. This book made me stop and think about how leadership—good or flawed—shapes entire nations.”

— M. Santos, Manila, Philippines

‘Opening Challenge’

“To the Citizens of America: A Call to Action”

When the framers gathered in Philadelphia, they laid down words that still ignite the soul of this nation:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

These words are not relics. They are not museum pieces encased in glass. They are a contract—between leaders and citizens, between past and future, between freedom and responsibility. The Preamble is the heartbeat of the American experiment.

And now, the challenge rests on us.

We cannot outsource our duty as citizens to politicians, pundits, or parties. We the People must once again decide if we will rise to the standard set for us: justice, unity, security, liberty. We must resist the temptation to be passive consumers of politics and instead become active stewards of democracy.

This means standing for truth when lies are louder. It means defending liberty when convenience demands compromise. It means remembering, as James Langston reminds us, that *“It’s not the chickens that are cackling, but the buzzards in the trees.”* Noise will always surround leadership—but the future belongs to those who act, not just those who jeer.

The Preamble gave us the *why*. The Constitution gave us the *how*. Now this generation must provide the *will*.

The challenge is clear: Live as citizens worthy of the gift you’ve inherited. Guard the freedoms bought with blood. Speak truth in love. Pass down a nation not weakened by cynicism, but strengthened by conviction.

If we do this, America’s promise will not dim with the years. It will shine brighter with each generation that dares to believe, to work, and to sacrifice for “a more perfect Union.”

Chapter 1

The Oath Repeated

"Back in the Saddle"

The story that began in the Prologue, *0–60 in Nine Months*, was not merely a reflection on speed but on momentum. Nations rise or fall in seasons that often feel impossibly short. What many thought would be years of rebuilding after 2020 instead became a sprint into the unexpected.

The Foreword warned us of this acceleration — that history has a way of circling back, of placing leaders once thought finished back into the center of the arena. And the Introduction reminded us that America's story has always been a story of comebacks, that our people, like the leaders we elevate, are never quite done until the final page is written.

And so, on a brisk January morning in 2025, the stage was set for Donald John Trump's unprecedented return. There he stood once again on the west front of the Capitol, hand raised, Bible pressed beneath the weight of history.

The words of the oath — solemn, steady, familiar — echoed across the National Mall, a promise made before God, the people, and the world. This was not a first act but a second. Not a prelude but a reprise. Not an experiment but a return with purpose.

The subtitle of this chapter, *Back in the Saddle*, captures this moment more than any single headline could. To be "back in the saddle" is not simply to resume a role; it is to reclaim authority after a fall, to grasp the reins again after being thrown. For many of Trump's supporters, this imagery rang true. The bruises of 2020 still lingered, but here was their champion, dusted off, re-seated, eyes forward, determined to ride again.

The Power of Repetition

There is something profoundly biblical about repetition. In Scripture, repetition signals emphasis, permanence, covenant. Jesus often repeated phrases for clarity: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you…"* And here was Trump, repeating his oath as the 47th President of the United States. For critics, it felt like déjà vu. For allies, it was vindication. For the man himself, it was redemption — the closing of one chapter and the opening of another.

The inauguration was not a ceremonial replay; it was a decisive marker in the nation's timeline. With his hand on the Bible and his voice steady, Trump's second oath carried the

Chapter 3

The Economy

"Boom, Bust, or Bounce?"

No presidency escapes the grip of economics. Nations may rise on their military strength, their cultural influence, or their technological prowess, but it is always the condition of the people's pockets that ultimately measures success or failure. For Trump 2.0, the question on the lips of Main Street and Wall Street alike was blunt: Would this be boom, bust, or bounce?

From the very first day, markets buzzed like a beehive shaken awake. Traders, analysts, business owners, and everyday workers all scanned the horizon, waiting to see if Trump's return meant another era of expansion or a slide into uncertainty. For some, it was déjà vu: memories of roaring markets and deregulation that fueled growth during his first term. For others, it was a warning flare: the unpredictability of tariffs, the blunt-force style of negotiations, the volatility that made planning difficult.

But beneath the charts and headlines lay something deeper — a human story. The economy is never just numbers on a page; it is families at the grocery store, young couples signing mortgage papers, retirees guarding pensions, and single parents stretching paychecks. In this chapter, we are not just talking about GDP or unemployment percentages; we are talking about the weight of life's daily bread.

A Nation at the Crossroads

January 2025 dawned with a paradox. The nation had survived a global pandemic, weathered inflation spikes, and staggered through supply chain crises that exposed the fragility of a modern world. Gas prices had soared and tumbled, shelves had emptied and refilled, jobs had been lost and regained — but confidence was brittle.

Trump's message was clear: America would rebuild its prosperity by returning to its own strength. "We will drill, we will trade, we will build, and we will buy American again," he declared. It was the kind of economic sermon that resonated deeply with working-class families who had grown weary of watching factories close, farms struggle, and foreign competitors surge.

Chapter 5

Health, Education & Culture

"Redefining the Narrative"

Every nation is shaped by three pillars that stand tall within its borders: the health of its people, the education of its children, and the culture that binds them together. These are the everyday spaces where politics meets life, where lofty promises are tested at the kitchen table, in the classroom, and in the hospital waiting room. Unlike military strength or financial markets, which seem distant to the ordinary citizen, health, education, and culture are the arenas where people live and breathe every single day. They are the front lines of a nation's identity.

In the Trump 2.0 era—Stronger, Louder, Focused, and Refined—these pillars are no longer being discussed merely as issues of policy, but as battles of narrative. Who controls the story? Who shapes the headlines? Who defines what it means to be healthy, educated, and culturally rooted in truth? The subtitle of this chapter, *"Redefining the Narrative"*, points to the reality that the fight is not just over resources or legislation—it is over words, images, and perceptions. The story America tells herself about her people will either build resilience or accelerate decline.

The Power of Narrative

Narratives are more than news stories. They are the lenses through

which we see the world. Consider health: one narrative says America's system is broken beyond repair, a patchwork of profit-driven industries crushing families under medical debt. Another narrative claims America has the finest doctors and technology the world has ever seen, capable of innovation and lifesaving breakthroughs. Both contain truth. But the narrative that dominates determines how people feel, vote, and trust.

Education is no different. One narrative paints classrooms as battlegrounds of ideology, with children caught in the crossfire of debates over curriculum, gender identity, and patriotism. Another narrative sees schools as places of opportunity and advancement, where the American dream still begins at the chalkboard. Again, both perspectives exist—but the louder narrative becomes the defining truth for a generation.

And culture? Culture is the loudest of all. One narrative insists America is fractured beyond repair—her traditions eroded, her values discarded. Another narrative declares that she is

Chapter 7

China & Trade

"Old Rivals, New Rules"

From the first days of his political rise, Donald Trump made no secret of his view of China. He called them a rival, a cheater, and sometimes even an enemy of America's prosperity. He claimed that while America slept, China advanced — outmaneuvering U.S. leaders in trade agreements, intellectual property, and global supply chains. By the time Trump returned to the Oval Office, the message was clear: China was no longer just a competitor across the Pacific, it was a direct challenger to America's economic and geopolitical dominance.

But this time — Trump 2.0 — the tone felt different. Stronger. Louder. Focused. And perhaps most of all, refined. The first term had been, in some ways, a testing ground. Tariffs were levied, deals were renegotiated, tensions flared, and markets quivered. Yet by the time the second term dawned, Trump seemed more confident in his strategy, less rattled by criticism, and more willing to confront not just the "what" of China's rise, but the "how" and "why."

This is where the subtitle of our chapter comes into play: Old Rivals, New Rules.

The rivalry between the United States and China is not new. It has been decades in the making — stretching back through the Cold War, through Nixon's opening of diplomatic ties, through the era of "Made in China" filling American shelves. For years, the American people tolerated it, believing that cheap goods meant shared prosperity. But the rules have changed. In the 21st century, trade is no longer only about goods moving across oceans. It is about data, rare earth minerals, cyber networks, artificial intelligence, and the invisible pipelines of information that crisscross the globe.

Old rivals now face each other across a new battlefield. And Trump, in his second act, wanted to write the rules himself.

Picture it like a chessboard. In the old game, America was accustomed to moving first, confident that every opening was favorable. But in the new game, China had learned the playbook. It had studied America's strategies, exploited its weaknesses, and prepared its counter-moves in advance. Suddenly, what had once been a predictable contest of tariffs and treaties became an unpredictable struggle of leverage, technology, and alliances.

Chapter 9

Media Wars

"Louder Than Ever"

Every presidency faces turbulence. But not every presidency weathers it with triumph. Some are consumed by storms, undone by scandals, or drowned out by noise. Others rise above the clamor, using even the fiercest winds to propel them forward. As we turn into Part IV, we step into the most contested, chaotic, and loud battlefield of the Trump era—not foreign policy, not economics, not diplomacy, but the war for perception.

The media was not just a backdrop to Trump's presidency. It was the arena itself. Every word he spoke, every gesture he made, every tweet he posted was dissected, magnified, praised, and condemned—often within the same news cycle. He was not just a political leader; he became the headline, the ticker tape, the late-night joke, and the breaking news alert, day after day.

The subtitle of this chapter, *"Louder than Ever,"* captures the spirit of this battlefield. For the volume of the Trump-media clash did not quiet in his second term; it intensified. The debates were sharper, the coverage more polarized, and the stakes higher than ever before. Trump 2.0—stronger, louder, focused, and refined—was not a whisper in the storm. He was a lightning rod in the center of it.

The Sound of Volume

Volume, in this context, is more than decibels. It is visibility, reach, and presence. Trump understood instinctively what many politicians never fully grasp: in the age of 24/7 news, social media feeds, and viral clips, the loudest voice often wins—not because it is always right, but because it cannot be ignored.

This is why his critics and supporters alike found themselves caught in the same trap: they had to talk about him. Whether they praised him or condemned him, whether they laughed or lamented, his name was always on their lips. And in a world where attention is currency, Trump remained wealthier than any of his rivals.

Louder than Ever was not just his strategy—it was his survival. For every scandal that threatened to derail him, he countered with sheer presence. For every story that tried to frame him, he framed himself louder.

The Devotional Parallel: The Voice in the Wilderness

Chapter 11

Crisis Management

"Storms, Shocks, and Speeches"

The gavel strikes, and with its echo, the nation holds its breath. For in America, the courtroom is more than a chamber of law—it is a furnace. Here, truth is tested, motives are revealed, and verdicts carry consequences not just for individuals but for the destiny of a nation.

The imagery of fire is not accidental. A furnace consumes dross and purifies gold, and in the same way, the legal and judicial battles of our time are refining not only a presidency but also the very heart of America. To step into the courtroom is to enter the Court of Fire, where arguments are sharpened like swords, where witnesses tremble under the heat of cross-examination, and where judges weigh justice on scales too heavy for any one person to lift. And yet, it is here—in this crucible—that history bends, nations are tested, and leaders are either refined or consumed.

When we say "Trump 2.0: Stronger, Louder, Focused and Refined," it is in no small part because of what unfolded within these courts of fire. For a man's enemies may come in the form of political rivals, media adversaries, or cultural detractors, but few battlegrounds compare to the courtroom, where accusations are not merely opinions shouted from a podium but official charges pressed under oath, sworn to be true, and documented in the annals of law.

The Nature of a Court of Fire

Every generation has its arenas where the future of the republic is tested. In some ages, it has been the battlefield—Gettysburg, Normandy, Fallujah. In others, it has been the legislative floor, where passionate voices debated the rights and freedoms of millions. But in this season, much of America's future was wrestled for in its courtrooms.

And these were not simply sterile proceedings of law and order. They became theaters of spiritual significance, for the stakes reached beyond political victories. They touched on integrity, legitimacy, and the enduring principle of justice. Just as the prophet Isaiah once declared, *"When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"* (Isaiah 43:2), so too did these courts become a blazing test of endurance, not only for Donald J. Trump but for the people who stood with him.

‘Epilogue’

“Through the Eyes of a Witness”

by Dr. Eleanor Whitfield, J.D. | Constitutional Lawyer, Legal Scholar, and Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Studies

I have lived long enough, both as a citizen and as a constitutional lawyer, to testify that truth in America has often been drowned out by volume. When I was young, I learned the lesson that it is not always right or wrong that prevails, but persistence. The old idiom said it best: “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.” That phrase, lodged in my memory decades ago, has been proven true time and again in courts of law, in halls of power, and in the media.

But I also learned another lesson. If you want to know what is hidden in a dark alley, you must bring a torch—or better yet, a 1,000-watt lamp. Shadows cannot conceal themselves once light arrives. Darkness flees exposure, just as corruption recoils from truth. It is not enough to walk cautiously in the dark; one must shine light boldly, knowing that truth will always provoke resistance but will also always reveal reality.

And yet, somewhere along the way, we, the American people, began preferring performance to substance. Hype replaced depth. Sensationalism overtook reason. The guardians of public knowledge—radio, television, and newspapers—have too often chosen to manipulate narratives rather than steward truth. They are no longer purely objective in pursuit of fact; instead, truth has become subjective, bent toward agendas and ratings.

The October 2025 exchange between George Stephanopoulos and Vice President J.D. Vance is a case in point. Pressed repeatedly about bribery allegations against former border czar Tom Homan, Vance called the charges “bogus” and accused the media of targeting Homan unfairly. But rather than let the conversation find its footing—or allow clarity to emerge—Stephanopoulos cut Vance off mid-sentence and went to commercial break. In that instant, the public was not served truth but deprived of it. What prevailed was not illumination but spectacle. What triumphed was not the torch of light but the noise of a squeaky wheel.

Such moments remind me that when we lose sight of what is best for others, and replace it with what is best for me, we abdicate fairness itself. We surrender our place as stewards of justice. Once self-interest becomes the standard, right and wrong become casualties.

‘Summatim Argumentum’

(Summing up of the arguments)

‘The Work Continues, The Call Remains’

by Professor Margaret Ellison, LL.M. |Professor of Constitutional Law,
and former Clerk to the Court of Appeals

As a constitutional lawyer, I am often asked whether justice is simply the triumph of what is right over what is wrong. My years in courtrooms, legislative halls, and the classroom have taught me a sobering truth: it is not always so. Verdicts and policies are not always shaped by righteousness or equity, but by persistence, performance, and influence. Too often, the loudest voice—not the wisest—directs the course of debate.

I learned early in my vocation that truth must be brought into the open with deliberate force. Light exposes what shadows conceal, and the same is true for corruption and deception. Darkness recoils when truth shines upon it. This is why truth is never an accessory to justice—it is its foundation. Without truth, justice collapses into spectacle, manipulated until it no longer resembles justice at all.

But what happens when a society grows weary of truth, or worse, when truth itself is redefined as optional or negotiable? At that point, we do not simply lose facts; we lose fairness, balance, and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. When the pursuit of justice becomes the pursuit of advantage, the sacred calling of law gives way to the shallow terrain of self-interest.

This is the cultural moment in which we now live. Increasingly, we prefer performance over principle, sensation over sobriety, and entertainment over equity. Our newsrooms and studios, once guardians of fact, too often serve as stages where narratives are sculpted to fit agendas. Viewers are left not with clarity but with fragments—soundbites, interruptions, and unresolved questions. Truth is not discovered but buried.

If we are to recover our footing as a people, we must return to first principles. We must reassert that truth is not the possession of any party, politician, or press outlet. Truth is not a matter of convenience or opinion—it is light. Sometimes that light is uncomfortable, sometimes it is inconvenient, but it is always necessary.

As I close this summation, I remind you of lessons impressed upon me over a lifetime in the law: that light must shine where corruption hides; that fairness requires sacrifice, not self-

‘About the Author’

“Reflections from a Navy Captain”

by —Captain Daniel R. Markham, USN, Submarine Warfare Officer
Graduate, U.S. Naval War College & Naval Postgraduate School
Former Commander, Blue Crew

I first met Lieutenant James Langston in 2002 at Capodichino, Naples, Italy. He was assigned to NCTAMS Med, providing the secure communications backbone for U.S. and NATO operations across the Mediterranean. I was serving on the staff of Commander, Submarine Group Eight. From the very beginning, James distinguished himself as an officer of uncommon steadiness, clarity, and resolve.

He was never one to posture or inflate his role. He knew his job, led his people, and delivered results when failure was not an option. In the unforgiving world of military operations, James’s competence and integrity made him the kind of officer every commanding officer wants in the fight.

When he retired in 2003, I had no doubt he would carry those same qualities into his next mission. He approaches writing and ministry the way he once approached supporting the Warfighter: mission first, uncompromising in standards, committed to truth.

Good Job Mr. President is exactly what I expected from James Langston: bold, unflinching, and honest. He calls things as they are, with conviction rare in today’s world. He writes as he lived in uniform—disciplined, direct, and with no wasted words.

As a submarine officer, I have commanded sailors in some of the most demanding environments on earth. I know what leadership looks like under pressure. James Langston embodies that same spirit. He challenges, steadies, and reminds us that truth and courage still matter.

It is my honor to have served alongside him, and my privilege to commend him to you now. Read this book with an open mind and a willing heart. You will hear the voice of a Sailor, a leader, and a man of faith who never stopped serving—and never stopped leading.

—Captain *Daniel R. Markham*, **USN**